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DOCUMENTS CROSS-REFERENCED
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EA 85-3630

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17 September 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director for Intelligence
Director of Global Issues

FROM: [REDACTED]
Chief, Geography Division, OGI

25X1

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Interagency Group on Ocean Policy and
the Law of the Sea [REDACTED]

25X1

1. Action Requested: None. This memorandum summarizes for your information the results of the meeting of the Interagency Group on Ocean Policy and the Law of the Sea held on 12 September at the Department of State, which was chaired by Richard Smith, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental Affairs. [REDACTED]

25X1

2. Background and Conclusions: The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and draw up a plan of action regarding the recent announcement by Canada that it would strengthen its control over its Arctic islands by enclosing them within straight baselines connecting the outermost islands. (Straight baselines serve as starting lines for the extension of territorial sea, economic zone, and continental shelf claims.) To become effective 1 January 1986, this act would enclose the Northwest Passage, now part of the high seas, within Canada's internal waters and could bar foreign navigation there--such as the transit in August by the USCG ship Polar Sea from Greenland to Alaska--without the permission of the Canadian government. The act would also set a precedent regarding high seas freedoms that other countries might follow, the USSR and the Northern Sea Route being a case in point. [REDACTED]

25X1

3. The Group discussed US interests in the Arctic and agreed that before proposing any course of action it would be necessary to talk informally with the Canadians to gain a fuller understanding of the reasons behind their decision, what they expected from the action, and the precise nature of the legal regime they propose to install in the Arctic. To that end, State Department agreed to invite Canadian Foreign Office personnel to Washington late next week. [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT: Meeting of the Interagency Group on Ocean Policy and
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OGI/GD/ERA/ (17Sept85)

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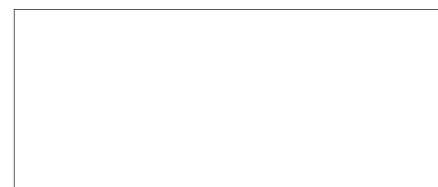
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